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For Co-Operation.

We are advised that a committee calling itself the California Promotion committee, is about to commence a movement for the organization of permanent societies in the Pacific states and their near neighbors, with the object of securing co-operation in the material advancement of this section of the country. This is, we think, a most commendable movement. The Pacific is destined to become the center of the world's commerce and industry, and the advantages of location, when the point of business gravitation changes from the eastern to the western hemisphere must be secured and enhanced by co-operation.

In the circular announcing this movement we are told that the purpose of the central organization will be to bring all the Pacific states together through a close relationship of their commercial organizations. The Pacific States Progress association will bring about a broad, vigorous and generous spirit of co-operation so that the Pacific coast will be in a position to reap the benefits to which it is by nature entitled, and to command the respect and admiration of the world. The Oregon Development league and other organizations in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Nevada, Utah and Arizona are co-operating with the California Promotion committee, which is the central organization of 150 chambers of commerce and development associations in California.

It is a good suggestion. Co-operation for a common object should result in material advancement, and in neighborly good feelings. Business intercourse should promote friendship and remove the misunderstandings that are founded only upon misrepresentations. In union there is strength, and this is particularly true of union for the promotion of common interests.

The Death Bearing Mosquito.

One of the characteristics of human nature is the reluctance to part with theories which have long been established, and accept and act upon the results of later investigation. Even after science, in its results, has clearly demonstrated the fallacy of the old and the truth of the new, there is still a tendency, more or less restrained, to constantly hark back to former views, to the exclusion of more modern thought, based upon scientific research.

There is some reason to believe that it is owing to this persistent adherence to the views of the fathers that New Orleans is now in the midst of a deadly epidemic of yellow fever. It is stated that many of the medical practitioners of the Crescent City have persistently decried the theory, now elsewhere generally accepted, that the germs of fever are carried by the mosquito and thus conveyed to the blood of human beings. It seems that, in many instances, the New Orleans physicians persisted in fighting the epidemic according to methods which entirely ignored the mosquito, and which involved a quarantine based upon the theory that the disease is contagious and is acquired by personal contact with, or close proximity to, a fever patient. There is also evidence, however, of a disposition to at least give the new methods of preventing the disease a trial, and practically the entire medical fraternity of the stricken city is united in a war of extermination on the mosquito. It would seem to be unfortunate that this unanimity of endeavor should have been reached only after the dreaded scourge had obtained a foothold in the city.

It is a well known fact that the medical profession for a time looked askance at Jenner's discovery, which led to the practice of vaccination for the prevention of smallpox. Indeed, there are many practitioners today who comply with the legally enforced practice only under protest, notwithstanding its apparent efficacy in stamping out the disease.

The parallel is, of course, not exact. In the case of physicians who hesitate at vaccination there is at least a colorable reason for their attitude. While admitting with reserve that the inoculation acts as a preventive to a certain extent, these physicians claim dire results sometimes follow. The physician who neglects or refuses to accept the dictum of science that the mosquito is the medium of the transmission of yellow fever has no such bulwark. The utter extermination of such an insect which is an almost intolerable pest, regardless of its ac-

tivity in spreading fever, would be of invaluable benefit to mankind, and certainly could result in no injury. However, old theories die hard, and it is perhaps not strange that conservative New Orleans physicians should be reluctant to change the views of a life time. It is true that the last scientific word regarding vaccination and the spread of yellow fever by the mosquito may have not been said, for very few conclusions of science are ultimate.

The fact remains, however, that it was by acting upon the theory of vaccination as a preventive of smallpox that the spread of the disease has been stayed in thousands upon thousands of instances. It is also true that in the Cuban city of Havana, which now maintains a quarantine against yellow fever, the disease was not eradicated until the mosquito was recognized as the distributing agent and was made the object of a war of extermination.

The Anglo-French Alliance.

A British personage designated as "a high official of the foreign office," has given an interview regarding the relations between Great Britain, France and Germany in which the interesting declaration is made that Great Britain would welcome a defensive alliance with France. The reason given is that such an alliance would insure a long continuance of European peace by acting as a check to German ambitions.

A year ago the suggestion of such a compact between England and France would have been ridiculous; now it is perfectly reasonable. The growing enmity between these ancient enemies has been one of the conspicuous events in recent world politics. It is only about five years ago that they were at swords' points over Fashoda, but no sooner had King Edward ascended the throne than he began the difficult task of bringing his own country into closer relations with its neighbor across the channel. How well he has succeeded is now apparent. The Kaiser may be the greatest statesman in Europe, but the king is certainly the cleverest diplomat, and in this work he has been aided by the president of the French republic, who happens to be a man unusually well supplied with good, hard common sense.

The fall of Russia has made the Franco-Russian alliance almost worthless, so far as defensive value to France is concerned, for its prime object was to protect her from German aggression. Now, the Muscovite bugaboo frightens nobody, and France must look elsewhere for a friend. The Kaiser has been quick to show his realization of Russian impotency, notably in the Moroccan affair, which he never would have dared initiate if the war in the far east had turned out differently.

It has been suggested that the conference between the czar and the Kaiser in the Baltic sea was for the purpose of bringing about a better understanding between their respective governments. Wilhelm is believed to desire this not merely to weaken France but to solve the vexed Polish question, which is almost as serious in German Poland as it is in the country tributary to Warsaw. If an entente between Russia and Germany should be brought about, the natural consequence would be an Anglo-French alliance, and conversely, if Great Britain and France should come into too close relationship the czar and the Kaiser would be driven together by force of necessity.

Such an alignment would bring about a peculiar condition. The English and French would rule the seas, for their combined navies would be stronger than those of all the rest of the world, even including that of the United States. But on the land they would be far outclassed. Germany's army is slightly bigger than that of France, and she has greater reserve power, while the land force of Great Britain is a negligible quantity, as Lord Roberts so dramatically showed a few weeks ago. Russia is crippled on land, but she still has tremendous resources in this direction, and the Russians in Manchuria have shown themselves to be brave and determined fighters.

An alliance between Great Britain and France might insure the world's peace, and again it might not. The German emperor seems to be "spoiling for a fight," and in the recent Moroccan affair he showed himself unwilling to risk complications with both France and England. If he continues his present aggressive course the end of it will probably be either a Sedan or a Jena, with the chances favoring the latter.

Details of Railway Accidents.

The English speak rather grimly of the casualties in a battle or a war as the "butcher's bill." Several days ago we noted the size of the interstate railroad "butcher's bill" for January, February and March, this year. "Accident Bulletin No. 15," issued by the interstate commerce commission, supplies some interesting details.

In the three months there were 1,787 collisions on the reporting roads, and 1,321 trains jumped from the track; 284 passenger trains suffered in the collisions, 177 were derailed. Of the 222 persons killed in the train accidents, 28 were passengers, 135 were trainmen on the trains, 26 were trainmen in switching crews, 21 were railroad servants not trainmen. Of the \$713 injured in the train acci-

dents, 1,651 were passengers, and 2,062 railroad servants—trainmen and others. The miscellaneous accidents at stations, in yards, on grade crossings, and along the right of way brought the total of killed up to 969 and of wounded up to 14,397. Twenty-four passengers were killed and 317 more or less seriously hurt while getting on or off car platforms (the train being in motion at the time presumably) or by falls therefrom.

Some of the causes assigned for the accidents are suggestive. A distant signal was hidden by the smoke from a locomotive. A train was left standing, insufficiently braked, in a tunnel; when the air leaked out from the brake cylinders, the train ran away. A railroad telegraph operator (eight months' experience) delivered a clear-ance card instead of a meeting order. Block-signal operator (sixteen years' experience) forgot an engine standing on a siding. Freight engineer and fireman forgot to get out of the way of a passenger train; they had been continuously on duty for nineteen hours. In another case the engineer had been on duty for more than twenty-two hours; but the company says it was his own fault. One engineer was fast asleep in his cab when the fatal crash occurred; one was drunk and paid no attention when flagged. Three mishaps were caused, respectively, by a burning bridge, the falling of a rock on the track, and a landslide soon after the track walker had gone by.

The Army and Navy Journal has a letter from an indignant American who lives in Paris and saw the John Paul Jones parade. "The courtesy of the French populace will never be excelled," he writes, "for not only did they salute their own colors when carried by French troops, but every man uncovered when Old Glory was carried by. It was in bitter contrast that I noticed the Americans who saluted their own colors, but kept their hats stolidly upon their heads when the tricolor went by. As to those of our fellow countrymen who were so ill-bred as to fail to salute both the French flag and our own, no phrase, name or sentence is strong enough to qualify such behavior."

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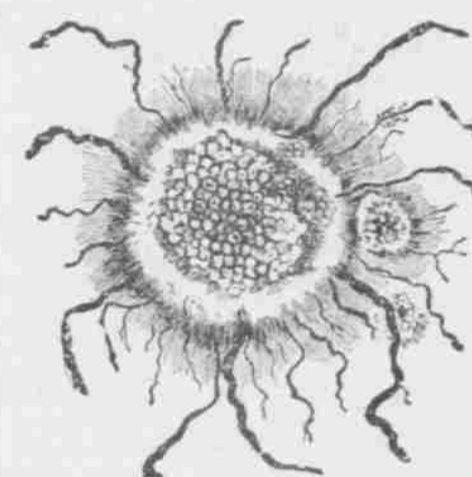
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